

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 8-12 and 14-52 are pending. Claims 1-5, 8-12 and 14-47 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Applicants have canceled claims 3, 8, 9, 14, 26, 33, 35, 43, 44 and 52 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter claimed therein. Claims 5, 23 and 40 have been amended. New claims 53-62 have been added.

As a courtesy to the Examiner, Applicants provide the following list of examples where support can be found in the original specification for the new claims.

<u>Claim</u>	<u>Supported in specification at:</u>
53	page 28, Table II
54	page 28, Table II
55	page 23, lines 10-13
56	page 19, line 20 through page 20, line 6
57	page 16, lines 10-13
58	page 19, lines 20-30
59	Example VI
60	page 26, lines 17-19
61	page 20, lines 9-14
62	page 26, lines 7-10

The Action required that the claims be restricted, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §121, to one of the following invention groups:

I. Claims 1-2 and their dependents, drawn to a method of making a carbon fiber reinforced composite, classified in class 156, subclass various.

II. Claim 3 and its dependents, drawn to a method of making a carbon fiber reinforced composite, classified in class 264, subclass various.

III. Claim 4 and its dependents, drawn to a carbon fiber reinforced composite, classified in class 428, subclass 408.

IV. Claim 5 and its dependents, drawn to a carbon fiber reinforced composite, classified in class 428, subclass 408.

V. Claim 37 and its dependents, drawn to a carbon fiber reinforced composite, classified in class 428, subclass 408.

Applicants do not traverse the restriction of the invention of Group I. Accordingly, applicants acknowledge that these claims will be withdrawn from consideration under 37 C.F.R. §1.142, but that pursuant to MPEP §821.04, are subject to rejoinder if they are found to be commensurate in scope to the elected claims.

Applicants do not traverse the restriction of Group II. Applicants hereby cancel the claims of Group II, namely Independent Claim 3, in the present application without prejudice or disclaimer as to its cancellation, but reserve the right to pursue this claim in a Divisional application.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction of invention Groups III, IV and V. Specifically, applicants respectfully submit that the inventions of these three Groups cannot be distinct from one another because the prior art search functions for these Groups are not mutually exclusive. To the contrary, each search will include a search in Class 428, Subclass 408, because this is how the Office has classified Groups III-V. Accordingly, a thorough prior art search of Class 428, Subclass 408 will invariably cover all three Groups.

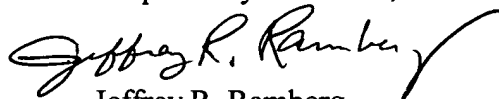
The traversal of the restriction of invention Groups III, IV and V notwithstanding, applicants elect to prosecute the invention of Group IV.

The Action stated that claims 1-5, 8-12 and 14-47 are pending. However, applicants added new claims 48-52 in their Amendment dated August 25, 2003, which was corrected on December 17, 2003. Applicants respectfully request that the Office acknowledge that claims 48-52 are also pending in the present application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for receiving favorable action in the next communication. Specifically, applicants respectfully submit that the specification and the claims of Invention Group IV, having already been subjected to substantive examination, should now be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowability directed to the claims of Group IV, namely, claims 5, 10-12, 15, 16, 21-25, 27-31, 34, 36, 48-50 and 53-62, thereby closing prosecution on the merits as to these claims, and permitting the Examiner to focus on the propriety of the Restriction Requirement as applied against Invention Groups III and V, and the possible rejoinder of Invention Group I.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action on the part of applicants would be desirable, the Examiner is invited to telephone applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey R. Ramberg", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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